

What is claimed is:

1. A printer comprising:

a back case unit having a continuous paper compartment for holding continuous paper;

a top cover unit assembled to open and close the back case unit so as to cover the continuous paper compartment when closed, and for forming a continuous paper transportation path for conveying the continuous paper between the top cover unit and back case unit when opened;

a first print unit disposed to the continuous paper transportation path for printing to the continuous paper; and

a data reading device disposed to the top cover unit for reading image data recorded or printed on an external medium when the medium is inserted into the printer.

2. A printer as described in claim 1, wherein the data reading device is an image scanning sensor for reading image data recorded to the medium.

3. A printer as described in claim 1, further comprising:

a front case unit having a slip transportation path for conveying a slip between the front case unit and back case unit; and

a second print unit disposed to the slip transportation path for printing to slips.

4. A printer as described in claim 2 further comprising:

a front case unit having a slip transportation path for conveying a slip between the front case unit and back case unit; and

a second print unit disposed to the slip transportation path for printing to slips.

5. A printer as described in claim 2 further comprising:

an internal cover located between the top cover unit and back case unit and assembled to open and close to the top cover unit;

an insertion opening through which said external medium can be inserted into the printer;

wherein when the internal cover is closed, a medium transportation path is formed with the medium transportation path having one end adjacent said insertion

opening for conveying the medium between the internal cover and the top cover unit; and with the data reading device disposed adjacent the medium transportation path.

6. A printer as described in claim 3 further comprising:

an internal cover located between the top cover unit and back case unit and assembled to open and close to the top cover unit;

an insertion opening through which said external medium can be inserted into the printer;

wherein when the internal cover is closed a medium transportation path is formed with the medium transportation path having one end adjacent said insertion opening for conveying the medium between the internal cover and the top cover unit; and

with the data reading device disposed adjacent the medium transportation path.

7. A printer as described in claim 5,

wherein said medium insertion opening is a slot disposed to the top cover unit for inserting the medium to the medium transportation path; and

further comprising a medium insertion prevention mechanism for preventing the insertion of the medium into the medium insertion slot when the internal cover is open.

8. A printer as described in claim 7, further comprising:

a shutter rotatably disposed to the top cover unit for blocking the medium transportation path when the internal cover is open; and

a lever disposed to the internal cover for holding the shutter in a predetermined position permitting the insertion of the medium into the medium insertion slot when the internal cover is closed.

9. A printer as described in claim 5, wherein the top cover unit has guide walls for guiding media in the medium transportation path.

10. A printer as described in claim 7, wherein the top cover unit has guide walls for guiding media in the medium transportation path.

11. A printer as described in claim 8, wherein the top cover unit has guide walls for guiding media in the medium transportation path.

12. A printer as described in claim 5 wherein an opening is formed to the top cover unit to enable the medium to overhang a predetermined distance defining an overhang length from one end of the medium transportation path.

13. A printer as described in claim 7 wherein an opening is formed to the top cover unit to enable the medium to overhang a predetermined distance defining an overhang length from one end of the medium transportation path.

14. A printer as described in claim 12, wherein said overhang length is less than the distance between the position at which the top cover unit is farthest removed from the back side of the back case unit when the top cover unit is open, and the back side of the back case unit.

15. A printer as described in claim 5, further comprising a medium movement prevention mechanism for preventing movement of the medium when the top cover unit is open.

16. A printer as described in claim 15, wherein the medium movement prevention mechanism comprises a rotating member rotatably assembled to the internal cover or top cover unit for intervening in the medium transportation path when the top cover unit is open, and

a holding member for inhibiting the rotating member from intervening in the medium transportation path when the top cover unit is closed.

17. A printer as described in claim 16, wherein the rotating member comprises:

an engaging part rotatably assembled to the internal cover or top cover unit, and engaging the back case unit when the top cover unit opens; and

a stopper protruding into the medium transportation path when the engaging part is engaged with the back case unit.

18. A printer as described in claim 17, wherein the holding member is a spring member urging the stopper to a retracted position to permit movement of the medium when the top cover unit is closed.

19. A printer as described in claim 17, wherein the stopper comprises an elastic contact part for clamping the medium.

20. A printer as described in claim 18, wherein the stopper comprises an elastic contact part for clamping the medium.

21. A printer as described in claim 20, wherein the elastic contact part comprises a clamping lever assembled for swinging relative to the rotating member, and

a spring member for urging the clamping lever in the clamping direction.

22. A medium transportation assembly for transporting a data recording medium which can be externally inserted therein to a data reading device for reading data recorded on the data recording medium comprising:

a housing having a top cover and a body to which the top cover is connected for opening and closing the top cover;

said data reading device being disposed to the top cover for reading information recorded to said data recording medium;

an internal cover located between the top cover and the body which can open and close when the top cover is open with the internal cover assembled relative to the top cover such that a medium transportation path is formed only when the internal cover is closed for conveying the data recording medium to the data recording device.

23. A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 22, wherein the data reading device is an image scanning sensor for reading image data recorded to the medium.

24. A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 23, further comprising a medium movement prevention mechanism linked to the top cover unit opening/closing operation for preventing movement of the data recording medium by protruding into the medium transportation path when the top cover unit is open.

25. A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 24, wherein the medium movement prevention mechanism comprises a rotating member rotatably assembled to the internal cover or top cover unit and intervening in the medium transportation path when the top cover unit is open, and

a holding member for holding the rotating member in a retracted position permitting data recording medium movement when the top cover unit is closed.

26. A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 25, wherein the rotating member comprises:

an engaging part rotatably assembled to the internal cover or top cover unit, and engaging the case top when the top cover unit opens; and

a stopper protruding into the medium transportation path when the engaging part is engaged with the case top.

27. A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 26, wherein the holding member is a spring member for holding the stopper in a retracted position to permit movement of the data recording medium when the top cover unit is closed.

28. A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 26, wherein the stopper comprises an elastic contact part for clamping the data recording medium.

29. A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 27, wherein the stopper comprises an elastic contact part for clamping the data recording medium.

30. A medium transportation mechanism as described in claim 28, wherein the elastic contact part comprises a clamping lever assembled for swinging relative to the rotating member, and

a spring member for flexibly urging the clamping lever in the clamping direction.